

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 12 and 17 to more appropriately claim the present invention. Applicants submit that the amendments contain no new matter, in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(f). Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4, and 7 – 18 remain pending and under current examination.

Regarding the Office Action:

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 12 for informalities; rejected claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kawada (Japanese Patent Publication No. 09-055607) (“JP ‘607”); and indicated that claims 1, 4, and 7 – 16 are allowed.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s thorough examination of this application, especially the detailed citations which aided Applicants in reviewing the Examiner’s comments. Applicants also appreciate the indication that claims 1, 4, and 7 – 16 are allowed. Applicants respond to the Office Action as follows:

Regarding the Objection to Claim 12:

The Examiner objected to claim 12 because of informalities (Office Action, page 2). In response, Applicants have amended claim 12, as it appears above, to be consistent with claim 10, by replacing “said electrode patterns” with “said central conductor patterns.” Accordingly, Applicants deem this objection overcome.

Regarding the Rejection of Claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP ‘607. In response, Applicants have amended claim 17 to depend from already allowed claim 1. Since claim 17 now depends from claim 1, and claim 18 depends

from claim 17, Applicants deem claims 17 and 18 allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable base claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants deem this rejection moot in view of the amendment to claim 17.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration of the application and submit that the objection and rejections detailed above should be withdrawn. This Amendment should allow for immediate and favorable action by the Examiner. Applicants submit that pending claims 1, 4, and 7 – 18 are in condition for allowance, and request a favorable action.

Should the Examiner continue to dispute the patentability of the claims after consideration of this Amendment, Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to discuss any remaining issues or to resolve any misunderstandings. Applicants' undersigned representative would welcome the opportunity to discuss the merits of the present invention with the Examiner if telephone communication will aid in advancing prosecution of the present application.

Please grant any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 required in entering this response. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 1.17 including any fees required for

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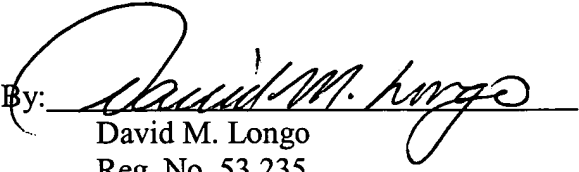
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an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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